

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, November 15, 2012  
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Beebe, Bresnahan, Fecho, Dorgan, McGuire, Thompson  
Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development  
Irene Luciano, Tax Assessor  
Cherie Trahan, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Hart.

Public Comment

- Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, urged the Commission to focus on town economic development objectives, not University projects.
- David Freudmann, 22 Eastwood Road, (speaking as a resident, not as a Town Council member), echoed Mr. Hossack's sentiments regarding the difference between Town and University interests and noted that he was disturbed by a reference in a June 2012 document describing the role of the Commission to the Commission working in partnership with the University. Mr. Freudmann also urged the Commission to support the completion of the Route 6 expressway to Bolton Notch.

Hart clarified that the document referred to by Mr. Freudmann was produced by staff for the purpose of identifying possible goals. The official charge of the commission is that established by ordinance. The Commission will work to establish its own goals in the coming months.

Staff Reports

- **Business Activity.** Hart and Painter updated the Commission on new businesses (either open or anticipated) including the new Verizon store at the Big Y plaza, Michaels Arts & Crafts (coming soon), Cumberland Farms (coming soon) and businesses at Storrs Center. The following closures were also noted: Grand Union (pending) and Peddlers Post.
- **Events.** Hart and Painter provided an update on coming events, including the Local First Mansfield initiative, Chamber of Commerce business opening celebrations and the Chambers 'Seasonal Sips' event scheduled for Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Other.** Painter provided an update on the HUD Grant (nka Mansfield Tomorrow | Our Plan ► Our Future), including the formation of a steering committee and working groups. Painter also noted that UConn would be presenting the Technology Park Master Plan on December 6, 2012 at 7:00 pm in Town Council Chambers.

Old Business

- **Policies and Procedures.** Hart asked for any questions on the Ethics Code and FOIA policy that were distributed at the previous meeting. No commissioners had any questions.

New Business

- **Presentation on Mansfield Tax Base.** Irene Luciano, Tax Assessor, gave a brief presentation on the status of the town's tax base, including general demographic information, taxable and tax exempt properties, how private businesses on state property are assessed and examples of common businesses. Hart, Luciano and Cherie Trahan answered questions from the Commission on how properties are assessed and the types of taxes businesses pay and the types of businesses that seem to do well.

- **2013 Meeting Schedule.** McGuire MOVED and Beebe SECONDED approval of the proposed 2013 meeting schedule. The motion was approved unanimously.
- **Future Agenda Items.** Hart requested suggestions from Commission members for future agenda items. Suggestions included:
  - Election of officers
  - Forum with economic development professionals including other communities, Chambers of Commerce and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) on successful techniques
  - Presentation on the UConn Technology Park
  - Meeting with EDCs from surrounding communities
  - More information on the Mansfield Tomorrow initiative, specifically with regard to the economic development strategy and how the EDC will be involved

#### Communications

- **M. Hart re: Water Supply EIE.** Hart and Painter provided an overview of the draft EIE and deadline for comments. The Water Supply project will be added to future agendas as Old Business.

#### Adjournment

Beebe MOVED and Dorgan SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development